GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

5th June 1877, No. 1,89[illegible]-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 56-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th May 1877.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2[illegible]th April 1877, No. 383.

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, the reports of my sectional officers on the relief operations for the month of March, together with my remarks recorded marginally thereon.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. V. MAYER, Esq., Assistant Director of Revenue Settlement, on Special Duty, Markapur Taluq, to H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Cumbum, dated Gobore, 27th March 1877.

WITH reference to your letter, No. A-795, dated 21st March 1877, I have the honor to state, in explanation, that the people drafted from Dornal were removed in obedience to explicit instructions received from the Collector.

2. While encamped at night on an open plain they were caught in a shower of rain, and the sudden chill and continued exposure (they had been working six days at the place) acting on the tender and possibly enfeebled frames of the children referred to would sufficiently account for their deaths. There was cholera at the time in the camp, but the cause of death, as these poor people understood, was exposure. The people were 20 miles from their homes, and, considering the small power possessed by children of resisting depressing influences, it is a matter of surprise that the deaths were not more numerous.

3. Acting on this belief I redrafted the people back to the neighbourhood of Dornal. I may just add that every care was taken of the poor coolies. Batta was given them before they left, and immediately on their arrival at their destination work was pointed out and the usual pay given. Of course it is desirable to provide shelter for people moved to a disance from their homes, but I think hutting arrangements almost are impossible in this part of the country.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

(Translation.)

From C. GURU ROW, Acting Tahsildar of Markapur, to R. V. MAYER, Esq., Relief Officer, Markapur, dated Venkatadripolliem, 29th March 1877, Arzi No. 94.

I HAVE reached this place having visited many villages of this taluq in search of the Chenchus among the hills. Most of the people of the villages near the Dupad road obtain a livelihood by working on the relief-work, but those that are living in villages at a distance from this road, having no works near their villages where they can find employment, and being unable to go to works 20 or 25 miles distant, are starving in their homes. They are on the one hand afraid of their houses being burnt during their absence, and on the other of the difficulty of earning their livelihood if they stick to their homes. They fear cholera outside their homes, and are struggling for the very existence in their own villages. I have personally visited the following places in the course of my tours, viz. Dornal, Yeguvacherlopalli, Nallagunta, Gurramasala, Venkatadripolliem, Turagondapolliem, and Kolukula. I cannot sufficiently describe the distress experienced by the people of these villages. They say that if works are opened at a distance of 10 or 12 miles from their homes, they can go and work there and obtain the means of subsistence; and I think that the reasons given by them for not leaving their homes are admissible. I am not able to form any opinion as yet as to the condition of those residing at Pullalacheruvu, Chapalamadugu, Marrivemula, and Iskatripuravaram, situated at a distance of 15 or 20 miles north of the abovementioned villages. I shall report on their condition shortly after personally visiting those villages. It would appear that it is proposed to open out in the northern part of this taluq the marginally-noted irrigation works, and I beg that sanction may be accorded for starting these works and giving employment to the poor people on them as soon as possible, as otherwise there will be loss of life for want of food. The condition of the people of Yegnvacheriopalli* is too miserable to be depicted. Their dwellings have all been burnt. Each of them possesses two or three half-dead animals, which being sent to a distance of seven or eight days' journey from their homes miserably perish uncared for by the owners. The people buoy themselves with the hope that these animals would live, but there is no means of making them live. No relief-works are opened in the neighbourhood of their villages. Under the existing arrangements the villagers will have to go to Sanikaveram, a distance of 8 miles at least, if they want work. Besides there is cholera prevalent there, and the people are afraid of going thither. As you are the Relief Officer in charge of the [illegible], I request you will be pleased to make proper arrangements for their subsistence.

1. Repairs to Gollavidopi tank.
2. Do. to the sluice of Dupad tank.
3. Do. to Narasayy[illegible] tank.
4. Do. to Marrivemula tank.
5. Do. to Venkatadri[illegible] tank.
6. Do. to five wells in Mutukala.
7. Do. to seven wells in Pullalacheruvu.
8. Do. to four wells in Chapalmadugu and Ayyapureddipally.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Acting Collector.

---

* This was the village which was looted and burnt by the Hyderabad dacoits on the night of the 7th March.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Acting Head Assistant Collector.

(Signed) C. GURU ROW,
Acting Tahsildar.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From H. R FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Cumbum, 3rd April 1877, No. A-1,010.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in the marginally-noted orders on the famine relief-works in this division for the month of March 1877.

Your foot-note, No. 39, dated 9th January 1877, on Board's Proceedings, No. 3,244, of 21st December 1876.

2. The report is divided into eight heads as follows :—

(1.) Movements of Sectional Officer.
(2.) Number of Persons relieved.
(3.) Emigration.
(4.) Preservation of Life and Health.
(5.) Concentration of Labor.
(6.) Accounts.
(7.) Staff.
(8.) Prospects.

3. *Movements of Sectional Officer.*—I spent most of the month in the Racherla and Donakonda relief ranges, but also visited Mr. Mayer in the south of Markapur and Mr. Thorburn at Cumbum. I personally attended to the carrying out of the various orders received and to general matters of relief administration.

4. *Numbers in receipt of Relief.*—The subjoined statement taken from the weekly returns submitted to the Board shows the numbers of persons employed and fed on the last day of each week in the month :—

Taluq.	Date.	Number on Works.	Number fed.
Cumbum	10th March	38,301	870
	17th do.	43,218	879
	24th do.	43,844	1,431
	31st do.	42,933	2,574
Markapur	9th March	11,087	440
	16th do.	12,137	468
	23rd do.	8,551	588
	30th do.	9,706	526

Almost every cooly in the division who is now receiving State relief has been placed on the lists under the orders of a European officer, who satisfied himself on the spot that they were fit objects of State relief. I have myself passed about half the coolies in the division. We have now to occupy ourselves rather with finding out and helping people who are really in need of help than with trying to discover undeserving objects wrongly in receipt of relief.

5. *Emigration.*—The number of persons registered by the Deputy Collector in charge of the Emigration Department as having emigrated during the month from the division to Nellore District is shown in the subjoined statement :—

Week ending	FAMILIES.					Single Men.	Total.	Remarks.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.			
4th March	177	141	37	40	91	42	528	Coolies sent from Nandial and Kurnool not included.
10th do.	197	210	50	74	67	73	671	
17th do.	148	170	37	51	46	28	480	
24th do.	118	125	38	42	56	10	389	
31st do.	626	641	152	160	258	56	1,893	
Total...	1,266	1,287	314	367	518	209	3,961	

I wish I were in a position to state that all the 3,961 coolies entered in the above list actually reached the works at the East Coast Canal. You will see from my letter, No. A-95[illegible], dated the 31st ultimo, that there is reason to believe that large numbers of them returned to their villages after going a short distance. I hope, if the suggestion contained in my letter quoted above* meets with your approval, that, with the inducements held out to emigrants in G.O., No. 967, dated the 7th March 1877 (Revenue Department), we shall be able not only to increase the number of coolies who emigrate in April, but also to state that all the coolies registered actually reached their destination. I propose to employ some of the Survey subordinates in escorting gangs of coolies to the East Coast Canal. It has been found impossible to get any work out of some of these subordinates. They will not learn Telugu. I have thought it better to allow them to remain on the strength of the Famine Relief Establishment than to send them back to Madras, which is just what they want. If idleness and indifference serve to secure their object, we shall get no work from any of them, but if they find that those who will not pick up a little Telugu have to go backwards and forwards to Kottapatam, some of them may try to make themselves useful here.

It is to be hoped that the inability or unwillingness of these men to work will not exercise an injurious influence on the steady flow of emigrants to the East Coast Canal. The Survey and Settlement officers were indifferently distributed to Messrs. Clogstoun, Gibson, and Farmer as they arrived. One of Mr. Gibson's lot showed symptoms of insubordination with a view to being permitted to return to his own part of the country. Mr. Gibson reported him and I instructed him to suspend the men should they evince similar insubordination again. Nothing of the kind has since occurred, and it is a pity Mr. Farmer did not adopt some such similar course

6. *Preservation of Life and Health.*—As indicated already in paragraph 4, it is the preservation† of life and health which now demands our greatest vigilance and attention. Some pains will have to be taken to make all subordinates thoroughly understand that Government are even more anxious to prevent avoidable loss of life than to save unnecessary expenditure. Hitherto we have not been obliged to increase the numbers on the works since the gangs were weeded. I have, however, given authority to Road Superintendents to take on needy persons to fill the places of those who emigrate, die, absent themselves. When a new gang is formed, the matter has to be specially reported to me.

Gratuitous Relief continues to be administered at five centres, where works are going on in Cumbum Taluq. In Markapur it would appear that since the relief-works were concentrated in accordance with your official memorandum, No. W-2, of the 26th February, gratuitous relief operations have also been concentrated, and that three or four of the relief-houses have been shut. I have written to the officer in charge of the taluq with a view to re-opening relief-houses, as it is clear from your memorandum ordering the works to be concentrated that you did not intend gratuitous relief to be concentrated‡ too. The case of those who cannot get to the relief enclosures is provided for by G.O., No. 917, dated the 2nd of March 1877, and the Tahsildars have been directed to make an advance of Rs. 10 to each Reddi who is to have accounts of expenditure kept as ordered by Government.

---

*Viz., to increase the number of halting stations between Cumbum and the Canal. This has been done, but I informed Mr. Farmer at the same time that I attributed the desertion more to the unauthorizedly high rate of wages which he was paying than to any other cause.

†So far as my information goes the preservation of life has all along been the primary object of Government and its responsible officer, and it seems rather late in the day for Mr. Farmer to commence inculcating this doctrine into his subordinates.

‡ Certainly not. Gratuitous relief has been afforded wherever necessary.

If a successful working of this system can be secured, I have no doubt that the number of deaths attributed to cholera will rapidly decrease. At present there is no medical man whose services are available in connection with famine relief operations. Surgeon Pedreza and the Hospital Assistant attached to my office are both in Cumbum and confined to their beds. It is doubtful whether they will be able to resume work here. The Hospital Assistant attached to the Civil Dispensary (where there are daily two or three deaths from cholera) has more than he can do in attending to patients at Cumbum. Cholera sheds are being built and medicines distributed.

Small-pox and fever are very prevalent. Hitherto when persons had to leave the work on account of these diseases they crowded to the relief-houses. Now they are to receive their wages and be kept separate. The great prevalence of infectious disease seems to have made officials apprehensive and nervous about themselves.

As regards the effect of the reduction of the subsistance allowance, I have the honor to report, as directed in the marginally-noted orders, that there has not yet been sufficient time to judge. At present about 60 per cent. of most gangs which I have seen seem in pretty good case.

1. Paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 329, dated 31st January 1877 (Financial Department).
2. Your foot-note, No. 623, dated 28th March, appended to G.O., No. 757, of 1st March 1877 (Financial Department).

About 20 per cent. of the persons in the gangs do not seem to have more flesh on their bones than I have seen on the bodies of persons who had died of starvation. I shall devote my best attention to observing the effects of the reduced scale of wages and attend carefully to your instructions regarding the preservation of life and health. Captain Biscoe told me that in the south of Cumbum Taluq the coolies were as strong as coolies in India generally are since then the wages have been reduced.

I am unable to determine at present whether this is a piece of sensational writing on Mr. Farmer's part; whether it is the result of that exposure to the sun under which it appears he has completely succumbed as I had occasion to telegraph to Government yesterday, or whether, as a matter of fact, it is accurate. If it is correct, I am unable to discover why these people did not of their own accord, or at Mr. Farmer's instance, emigrate to the Nellore Canal, where liberal wages were procurable instead of either dying or becoming living skeletons. Moreover, Mr. Farmer has persistently paid his coolies, until the other day, much higher than the authorized scale of wages which have been found sufficient elsewhere. There would, therefore, seem to have been gross mismanagement somewhere, either in respect to the proper amount of wages not having reached the coolies, to irregularity of payment, or to both.

7. *Concentration of Labor.*—By G.O., No. 868, dated the 28th of February, it is ordered that the least important works should be discontinued as opportunity offers, and the labor employed on them concentrated on the long and important lines of road and on irrigation works. With reference to this order, I beg to report, as directed in your foot-note, No. 48[illegible], dated the 10th March, that all the coolies in the division, except about 7,000, have already been employed as directed by Government. Instructions have been issued to Captain Biscoe to draft 5,000 coolies more to central works, as soon as provision can be made, in accordance with the marginally-noted orders for their shelter. I can, if you wish it, undertake to have every cooly in the Cumbum Taluq placed on main roads or irrigation works within three days from the receipt of your order to this effect; but the experience gained in Markapur leads me to hope that you will approve of my decision to allow the work of concentration in Cumbum Taluq to proceed as hitherto gradually. Shelter is necessary, as rain has commenced. From the enclosed copies of Mr. Mayer's letter, No. 67, dated the 27th ultimo, and of the Markapur Tahsildar's arzi, No. 94, dated the 29th ultimo, it would appear that if the precaution of providing shelter is not observed, loss of life will probably result. Besides this, the administration machinery at our disposal is quite unequal to the strain which any sudden change will occasion. Mr. Mayer was out a great deal with reference to the work entailed by the concentration of coolies ordered in Markapur. He is now unfit for work on account of exposure, and I am anxious to avoid, as far as possible, the continuous exposure to the sun, which results from endeavouring to do too much in a day. It will be found difficult, I fear, to secure an officer of Mr. Mayer's experience to take his place. He has been granted a sick certificate for three months. I hope, however, that long before the next monthly report is due all coolies in Cumbum Taluq will have been concentrated gradually on important roads and irrigation works. As irrigation works

Paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 520-A, dated 5th February 1877.

All concentration details were, as a matter of course, left for the determination of responsible officers. My other sectional officers manage those matters in a masterly manner, and without either complaining of the difficulty or requiring to be formally told that they are not to sacrifice life while transferring gangs from one work to another. While in the Cumbum Division I was at great pains to explain that the coolies were to have fair warning of the intended change; that they were to be supplied with batta while moving from one work to the other; that complete arrangements were to be made at the concentration work for their reception and employment before they were moved. It is when such orders are disregarded or imperfectly carried out that difficulty and danger appear to arise. Mr. Mayer would appear to have disregarded the rules for the guidance of Relief Officers.

are detached, there will be a difficulty in securing effectual supervision, but I shall endeavour to do what can be done towards remedying and providing against the evils which may be expected to arise on account of insufficient supervision. To give effect to the wishes of Government and fix responsibility on particular subordinates, I have, in consultation with the Range Officer, given a separate circle of villages to each of the five Overseers available for duty in Cumbum Taluq. These Overseers are to visit all works in progress in the circle once a week at least. They are to be furnished with a list of irrigation works in their circle or range, and to propose repairs or improvements. Much of their time will have to be devoted to teaching Maistries.

8. *Accounts.*—The Special Deputy Collector is, as you are aware, in charge of the Account Department. The work requires continual care and patience. I have written to the Deputy Collector impressing upon him the importance of personally instructing the Road Superintendents in the method of keeping the accounts prescribed in the marginally-noted orders. He is now attending to this suggestion. If three suitable Accountants to fill the posts sanctioned in the marginally-noted orders can be obtained, I shall feel less apprehensive as to the prospect of the accounts being respectably kept. Several cases of fraud have come before me, and I have only been able to convict in one case. This conviction was partly owing to the accounts having been fairly kept.

G.O., No. 985, dated 8th March 1877.
Your foot-note, No. a-18, dated 19th February, and [illegible], dated the 23rd March 1877.

The Deputy Accountant-General, Mr. Larpent, is at present at Kurnool auditing the Famine Accounts, and every effort is being, and will continue to be, made to get the taluq accounts into form with the least possible delay.

9. *Staff.*—As Mr. Mayer had to leave Markapur suddenly, the only arrangement I could make was to put Mr. Thorburn in his place. You will probably agree with me in thinking that the position is too arduous for an officer of Mr. Thorburn's standing.

As Mr. Farmer has himself succumbed to the effect of the sun and requires rest, application has been made to Government for assistance which is urgently needed in the Cumbum Division.

Mr. Thorburn, with the staff at his disposal, ought to be able to undertake the general supervision of 10,000 concentrated coolies (*vide* paragraph 4 *supra* for number).

The Tahsildar is new and engaged in Jamabundy work. Mr. Mayer fears that Supervisor Venkajee will be knocked up with over-work. There is not another subordinate who is both efficient and experienced. Mr. Thorburn has not [illegible] establishment. Mr. Macfarlane and Mr. Goodsir, who are both engaged in Markapur Taluq, are twelve or fifteen years Mr Thorburn's seniors. Mr. Addis and Mr. Macfarlane seem anxious to please and willing to work. Mr. Goodsir speaks of resigning his post. From what Mr. Mayer has reported, and from what I have seen of Mr. Goodsir, I shall recommend in a separate letter that his resignation be accepted. Mr. Hicken is virtually Engineer of the section, and as there are only two taluqs, perhaps you and the District Engineer may allow Mr. Hicken to take general charge of the professional part of the work in the division. Mr. Addis and Mr. Macfarlane will be useful on executive work. To prepare plans and estimates an office establishment,* instruments, paper, &c., are necessary. No one but Mr. Hicken has these. Supervisor Venkajee and Sherista Gumastah Venkiah, both of the Revenue Settlement, are working well in the field. I have dismissed a Sub-Overseer for drunkenness which ended in *delirium tremens*, and sent another subordinate to prison for fraud. I hope by the offer of higher pay to be able to get a few useful subordinates to fill the places of some of the most inefficient of those who are now employed. One death of a subordinate has been reported in March and absence from sickness is frequent.

Mr. Farmer has done so apparently more on representation made by Mr. Mayer than from personal knowledge. Considering the representation made by Mr. Farmer of the destitute state of his division, and the difficulty that has been experienced in sending him aid, he ought not to dispense lightly with professional aid.

From what I have seen of Mr. Hicken and his work, I would hesitate to place him in general charge of the Cumbum Division. His pay is Rs. 150 per mensem, and his rank that of Supervisor, 2nd Grade, though designated Range Officer. Mr. Goodsir draws Rs. 200 and allowances, and he is designated Assistant Engineer.

* Mr. Goodsir has indented for them.

10. *Prospects.*—I think we have no longer any cause to be apprehensive as to the supply of grain. Our best endeavours have, however, hitherto failed to induce the grain merchants to come forward and offer grain for sale in sufficient quantities in the south of Cumbum Taluq (Chintalapally and Kristnammachettipally relief ranges). The works already sanctioned will provide employment for the coolies of the division for four or five months, and if Mr. Hicken,* the Range Officer, is appointed as Engineer of the section, I have no doubt plans and estimates for irrigation repairs will be submitted in time to prevent any lack of useful work being ready. We shall thus, I hope, be able to provide useful work for the coolies until the cultivation season has far advanced, and they can obtain grain on credit upon the security of standing crops. When grain is not purchasable, we shall be able to continue grain-payments. Peculation, idleness, and bad work must be expected among the subordinates available. Additional help lately

* Mr. Hicken may perfectly well be required to do this work without necessarily being in charge of the division.

There must be no uncertainty on this point, and immediate steps should be taken to ensure it.

So long as they understand this is expected of them, they are not likely to disappoint Mr. Farmer.

ent and the promise of more make it likely that we shall be able considerably to diminish opportunities for fraud and to establish a system of check which will generally ensure punishment for idleness.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From E. GIBSON, Esq., Special Assistant Collector in charge of Section No. 2, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Atmakur, 9th April 1877, No. 416.

I HAVE the honor to submit the usual monthly report upon relief operations in the taluqs of this section. The same works have been in progress during the past as during the preceding month, and in addition one or two small tank repairs have been commenced in the Sirwell Taluq. Arrangements are also complete for putting in hand the repairs of several small tanks in the taluq of Nandikotkur, and these are about to be commenced. The difficulty in getting these petty irrigation works repaired consists in this, that they are all so small that only a very limited number of coolies can be employed upon them, and this implies a necessary weakening of our supervising staff. The repair of the trunk road through Nandial has begun, and work is also going on the main road from Kurnool through Atmakur to the Nallamalais. Had it not been for the difficulties raised by the Range Officer, a good deal of work would already have been done on the Cuddapah Trunk Road; but although I gave Mr. Vardon an Overseer, he would not undertake the work without receiving an enormous supply of tools, and as I could not meet the demand, I withdrew the Overseer who is now employed elsewhere.

The concentration of labor on the main lines of communication is of great importance and is a move in the right direction, which has not been made a day too soon.

Mr. Range Officer Vardon's bearing towards the Revenue Officers in connection with relief operations has been unsatisfactory for some time past; it is now obstructive; I understood that the District Engineer had written to him forcibly on the subject.

2. Mr. Scotland, the Special Assistant Engineer, is at present investigating two projects on a large scale which, if decided upon, will afford employment for large numbers. One of these works is the restoration of an old tank at Tallalingamdinne and the other of the old Chagamarri tank, both in Sirwell Taluq.

I was on my way to inspect these two important irrigation works in the Sirwell Taluq, and was within a short distance of Tallalingamdinne, when I had suddenly to cut my tour short and return to head-quarters owing to my Special Assistant, Mr. Bird, having had to proceed on sick certificate. Before leaving I instructed Deputy-Collector Ramachendra Rau personally to report on the area that would be brought under cultivation and the revenue therefrom.

3. The general sum of my observations during the past month in the matter of work is that, although there is still room for great improvement, the outturn is considerably greater than it has yet been. The people do not, of course, work with energy, but they have got rid of the idea that they are to be paid for doing nothing, and understand, whether they succeed in getting their full wage or not, that they are not entitled to it except for work done.

This is satisfactory.

4. During the month under report the new scale of wages has been introduced. I have taken second-sort rice as the standard for commutation, on the ground that cholum is not everywhere to be had, although generally procurable in the [illegible] and at the Cusbahs. In this way the rates of wages have been 1 Anna 8 Pies, 1 Anna 5 Pies, and 10 Pies for men, women, and children, respectively. In addition to these wages, 3 Pies are given to each child under seven years of age of parents employed upon the works. I see no reason at present to suppose that the present allowance is insufficient, but, as I have already pointed out, it is not lower than we have been paying for the last three months. Prices are now falling slightly in Sirwell and Nandial, and the wages for the current fortnight are somewhat lower.

5. In addition to the lungerkhanas at large central villages and the relief hospitals at Nandial a general system of village relief has been introduced.

From H. F. CLOGSTOUN, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Yeldurty, 16th April 1877, No. 143.

I HAVE the honor to submit a brief report on the conduct of the famine relief operations in my section of the district during the month of March.

2. *Numbers on the Works.*—The numbers on relief-works in each taluq of the section on the 24th February and on each succeeding Saturday up to Saturday 31st March are shown below :—

Taluqs.	TOTAL NUMBERS ON RELIEF-WORKS.						Increase or Decrease in Column 7 as compared with Column 2.
	February 24th.	March 3rd.	March 10th.	March 17th.	March 24th.	March 31st.	
1	2	3	4		6	7	8
Ramalkota	47,941	46,543	45,309	43,897	39,064	38,945	— 8,996
Pattikonda	21,854	20,802	21,106	19,999	20,892	23,340	+ 1,486
Koilkuntla	29,353	31,839	33,952	32,196	31,800	30,974	+ 1,694
Total...	99,148	99,184	100,367	96,092	91,756	93,259	— 5,889

The decrease in the numbers employed on relief-works in the section on the last Saturday in March as compared with the last Saturday in February is 5,889. In the Ramalkota Taluq the decrease in numbers has continued steadily every week, the total decrease in the numbers employed during the month amounting to 8,996. The actual decrease is not, however, so great, for between 2,000 and 3,000 were transferred to the Public Works Department, and should have been included in the accounts from which they were omitted by mistake. The numbers in the Pattikonda Taluq show a slight increase, but are still low if the area and the population (173,43[illegible]) of the taluq be considered.

3. In Koilkuntla there is an increase, but so slight as not to call for much notice. Taking the population of the section and of half the Banganapally Zemindari as 441,077, the percentage of the population actually on relief-works on March 31st will amount to 21·1 per cent. As stated in my last monthly report, I am satisfied that no important reduction in numbers can now be looked for, and I hardly think it possible that we shall get to the end of May without a very large increase in the numbers for whom employment must be found. I am prepared for either event. I can find useful work for all coolies whom I am likely to have to employ, and with my present establishment I shall be able without difficulty to discriminate between the really needy and the well-to-do, should any sudden rush occur to the works.

From past experience I have every confidence in the judicious arrangements which Mr. Clogstoun has made.

4. *Prices.*—The prices on the last day of each week in the month at the taluq cusbahs are shown in the annexed statement :—

Items.	Taluqs	FOR THE WEEKS ENDING					
		February 24th.	March 3rd.	March 10th.	March 17th.	March 24th.	March 31st.
Rice, 2nd sort.	Ramalkota	6·06	6·77	8·19	6·23	6·23	6·77
	Pattikonda	7·52	7·61	7·87	7·35	7·35	7·35
	Koilkuntla	6·60	7·43	7·43	8·25	8·25	7·42
Cholum ...	Ramalkota	7·84	8·55	8·90	8·90	7·30	8·55
	Pattikonda	9·67	9·71	10·24	9·45	9·45	9·45
	Koilkuntla	7·84	8·25	7·84	9·07	8·80	9·07

The price of second-sort rice, it will be seen, was below 16 lbs. per rupee in all the taluqs of the section on the last Saturday in the month. In Ramalkota every quotation, save one, is below 16 lbs. per rupee. In Pattikonda it is the same. In Koilkuntla three out of the five quotations show prices below 16 lbs. per rupee. As regards cholum, the month closed with prices in all the taluqs considerably over 16 lbs. per rupee, but considerable fluctuations in price were apparent during the month in Ramalkota and Koilkuntla, prices in the former taluq having been in one week as high as 7·30 Imperial seers per rupee and in the latter taluq as high as 7·84 seers per rupee. With these fluctuations in the head-quarter towns of each taluq the fluctuations in the villages cannot with safety be assumed to be less, and it is absolutely necessary that in fixing wages some margin should be allowed on this account. I am quite satisfied that at present prices the relief cooly gets very little, if anything, more than 1 lb. of grain for an anna at the markets, to which [illegible] compelled to resort (the great [illegible]jority of the coolies are employed purposely at a distance from the cusbahs), and I am not [illegible]fied that he would be able to get 1 lb. of grain for less than 1 Anna. Until this [illegible] is as[illegible]d, it is not possible to make any reduction in the wages.

With reference to this subject, Government have already sanctioned payment of an extra pie per adult employed on relief-works distant more than five miles from cusbah stations.

5. *Wages.*—Wages have been [illegible] throughout the month according to the lower standard prescribed by Government in their Order of the 31st January, No. 329.

6. *Condition of the Coolies.*—I saw during the month a large proportion of the coolies employed in the Ramalkota and Pattikonda Taluqs, and I saw no reason to suppose that the wages given were insufficient to keep them in fair condition. They did not strike me as failing in strength, and the general health seemed fairly good. Cholera, which made terrible havoc in the Pattikonda Taluq in December and January, had almost entirely ceased on the works in that taluq.

This accords with the opinion expressed by Mr. Gibson with regard to relief coolies in the three adjoining taluqs and with my own experience.

7. I had no opportunity of visiting Koilkuntla in the month, but I have no reason to suppose that the coolies there employed were in a condition inferior to those employed in the other taluqs of the section.

8. While, as I have said above, I do not consider that the effect on the coolies of the reduced money-wage has up to date justified any demand for an increase of pay I cannot forget that the two hottest months of the year are before us, and I shall be glad if I [illegible] find it possible to give them a slight addition of pay by placing them on the higher scale of wages and exacting a larger task. It does not seem advisable or just to apply for a higher rate of wages for the coolies for doing comparatively little in cases where I am in a position to grant them this higher rate of wages for doing a task which they are perfectly well able to do. I hope in the course of the month to have placed the majority of the coolies in this section on the higher scale of pay. I shall have a thorough organization for measuring the work done, and it will rest with the coolies themselves to determine whether it is worth their while to take a little extra trouble to earn a little extra pay. The higher rates of pay will appear in the accounts for these coolies, but rates in excess of those now paid will only be disbursed actually when the work performed materially exceeds the existing task. If less work continues to be done than the present task, a fine will be imposed sufficient to reduce the payment to the amount which would at present be paid.

This is as it should be.

9. Much difficulty is at present experienced in fixing a suitable task which shall entitle the coolies to the higher rates of pay. It must be fixed with leniency, and due allowance must be made for the low rates of wages, which to a great extent must incapacitate the coolies [illegible] hard work, and for the want of a sufficient supply of tools, &c. There is no public works task, so to speak; their rates are not based upon what a man can do for a certain sum, but upon what a man will do. There are serious difficulties in the way of deducing the task from the money rates paid for similar work in ordinary years, as also in the way of determining the value of work now done from its value in ordinary years. These difficulties will be the more felt if attempts are made to compare the value of work in Bombay with that done in this Presidency. An example will suffice. In a taluq in Bombay, where prices are 16 seers per rupee, a man is paid 1 Anna *plus* the value of a pound of grain, or a total sum of 1 Anna 6 Pies for digging a cubic yard of earth. That is to say, he is paid the equivalent of 3 lbs. of grain per cubic yard. Now the value of 3 lbs. of grain in Kurnool is 3 Annas, so that a cubic yard in Bombay, though if valued in money, it only costs 1 Anna 6 Pies, yet if valued in grain, and grain is the only fair standard of comparison, it costs at Kurnool rates 3 Annas. I notice this fact because the tendency at present is to compare the work in the two Presidencies according to their money values, and thus to make out that the Bombay work costs only about three-fourths of the Madras work, though in reality it costs the State in grain 50 per cent. more.

With reference to these remarks, I enclose printed copy of the Task-work Table I drew up in consultation with the District Engineer as required in clause I, paragraph 3, Board's Proceedings, dated 21st February 1877, and circulated for the guidance of all Relief Officers in the district. I also enclose copy of instructions which I circulated to all Relief Officers on receipt of Proceedings of Board and Government, dated 5th and 21st February last, respectively.

I beg to invite the Board's special attention to the important subject touched upon by Mr. Clogstoun in paragraphs 9 and 10 of his report. It seems to me they carry great weight with them.

10. The matter may be looked at in another light also. It is unfair to assume that the Kurnool cooly who buys his grain at an anna per pound can do as much for 2 Annas as the Bombay cooly, who with a wage of 1½ Annas can buy 3 lbs. of grain per day. The Bombay cooly, who is cheaply fattened upon 1½ Annas, may not unreasonably be presumed to have strength to do double the work [illegible] his Madras brother can turn out, who for his full wages can get only [illegible] lbs. of food. A Bombay cooly on 1½ Annas a-day might fairly be asked to do a full Public Works Department task, while it might not be right to demand more than three-fourths of a task from the Madras cooly on 2 Annas. That is to say, it is quite within reason that [illegible]diture in money of [illegible] per cent. more than in Bombay (2 Annas agai[illegible] [illegible]hould only fairly be [illegible] to do three-fourths of the work done by Bom[illegible]

11. *Nature and Progress of Relief-works.*—I [illegible] this subject in my letter, No. 94-68, of the 30th ultimo, that I need not [illegible] date I am writing upwards of 13,000 coolies have been removed to the m[illegible] are engaged in stacking broken metal and gravel. Sufficient numbers still [illegible] roads to ensure their completion before the famine is over.

12. *Gratuitous Relief.*—Every village officer in the section has been supplied with funds for the support of the sick and needy in the villages, and all the large relief-houses are still kept up. If the numbers fed in the village get beyond control, it may be found advantageous to concentrate the poor in central relief-houses, but without medical aid I shrink from establishing these large camps. I have not found any urgent necessity for them up to date.

13. *Government Reserve of Rice.*—I have had no occasion to indent on any of the reserves during the past month. Throughout the section the bazaars are now well supplied.

14. At the close of the past month I had selected in the Ramalkota Taluq about 4,600 able-bodied coolies for despatch from our relief-works to Nellore. All these men have now been struck off the rolls, but only about 500 or 600 have up to date left the taluq. Where all the others have gone to I cannot yet state, but I fancy that they will in a short time make up their minds to start. A few hundreds have gone from Koilkuntla, and I trust to be able to get a few more off from these when I reach the taluq.

THE reports will be submitted for the information of Government. It is to be regretted that they are forwarded at so late a date.

2. Mr. Clogstoun's report shows that he has regulated wages not with reference to the actually-quoted prices of either rice or cholum, but to a rate of 16 lbs. per rupee, which is somewhat between the ruling prices of the two grains, and is, he believes, nearly that at which grain is procurable in his three taluqs. The Board are of opinion that a closer regulation is necessary; prices in Ramalkota rule higher than in the other two taluqs, and should be allowed for.

3. He states that he has no reason to think the wages are insufficient to keep the coolies in good condition, but his remarks as to the difficulty of adjusting tasks seem to show that they are below the average of ordinary seasons. His intention to give the coolies opportunity of earning the higher scale of wages if they can is fully approved. The Collector's table, it is observed, gives what is to be considered full ordinary task. The argument advanced by Mr. Clogstoun as to ordinary cost of work is quite sound, and gives the reason why the Board have objected to scales of task-work founded upon ordinary values of work, and have directed that the *quantities* to be turned out should be laid down. Mr. Clogstoun's remarks as to comparison between Madras and Bombay coolies depend upon the assumption that prices are lower in the Bombay Taluqs than in Kurnool, which is not the case as regards those classed as severely distressed.

4. The Board are glad to notice from paragraph 11 that the coolies have been concentrated on the trunk roads; that further new roads are not contemplated; and that only sufficient labor has been left upon the roads already commenced to complete them before the famine is over. No relief-camps have been established in the division, which the Board regret. This village and relief-house system are open to great abuse, and hence, in fact, broken down in Kurnool. Mr. Clogstoun seems to think a very elaborate organization essential to a camp, but recent orders have, perhaps, removed this impression. Strenuous efforts have been made to get coolies to go to the East Coast Canal.

G.O., No. 1,510, dated 21st April 1877.

5. Mr. Gibson states that a better return is now being obtained in his division for the money spent. The special attention of Government is called to the remarks regarding the obstructiveness of Mr. Vardon, the Range Officer, which has

prevented the massing of coolies on the trunk road to Cuddapah. The District Engineer, however, appears to have taken the matter up. Want of supervising agency prevents Mr. Gibson from undertaking the repairs of small irrigation works which cannot employ many coolies. Mr. Scotland appears to be still employed in investigating two large projects for the restoration of ruined tanks. Unless decision [illegible] regards these works, there will not be time to execute [illegible] and valuable services will be lost.

6. The sca[illegible] by Mr. Gibson is not the new scale at all, and is too high. [illegible] even to the price of rice which it purports to do. The Board [illegible] ticed this subject, and it is unsatisfactory that revision should be [illegible] d; but some changes have now been effected as appears from the last relief report. The scale under notice is said to be sufficient, and doubtless is so. Mr. Gibson has no relief-camps, and village relief has led to abuse in his division also. His report might have been [illegible] with advantage.

7. Mr. Farmer's report does not disclose a satisfactory state of things in the Cumbum Division. The strain which has been put upon him and the exposure which he has undergone have apparently been greater than in his state of health he could bear; and it seems that the Collector has specially addressed Government upon the subject.

8. The emigration to the canal has been mismanaged. Less than 4,000 coolies have been despatched, and there have been large desertions owing probably, as observed by the Collector, to the high wages which Mr. Farmer has persisted in paying. The Survey subordinates who have failed to give satisfaction, and whose conduct is noticed in connection with this subject, should have been suspended and sent back at their own expense to head-quarters.

9. It is stated that 20 per cent. of the coolies are in an emaciated condition, which is certainly extraordinary, considering the wages that have been in force. The Board cannot understand how it is that in the Cumbum Division and in the sub-division of Cuddapah, where the highest wages have been paid, the coolies are said to be in the worst case. The result of the inquiry which the Collector has doubtless instituted into Mr. Farmer's allegation is awaited. Dr. Pedroza, the Special Sanitary Officer, to whom it would fall to report on the subject, was at the date of Mr. Farmer's report confined to his bed at Cumbum.

10. Mr. Davidson's attention is called to the statement in paragraph 6 of Mr. Farmer's letter to the effect that coolies who are suffering from small-pox and fever are retained in the gangs, and their wages, it is presumed, charged to the works. This is wrong. They should come under gratuitous relief, though they should, of course, be prevented from crowding to relief-houses. Camps, with hospitals, should be formed at once.

11. Mr. Mayer has broken down, and if Mr. Farmer has to go too, it will be obvious to Government that it will be necessary to strengthen Mr. Davidson's hands by sending him a capable officer to manage this most difficult division.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 56-D.

ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1877, No. 1,897-B.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government await the submission of the plans and estimates for the two irrigation works on which Mr. Scotland is engaged.

---

2. They observe that the report of the Acting Tahsildar of Markapur to Mr. Mayer contains a very bad account of the condition of the people, presumably Chenchus, who live in villages at a considerable distance from the Dupad road, [illegible] particularly of those inhabiting the village* which [illegible] had been burnt by [illegible] its from the Hyderabad country early [illegible] n [illegible] given to the subject.

3. With regard to the obstructivene[illegible] d of by Mr. Gibson, it will be pointed out to [illegible] Public Works Department, that it is the duty of o[illegible] vour to find means to assist, rather than to obstruct [illegible] arrangement of works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall

---

* Yeguracherla[illegible].

of (1877) Proceedings.
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
G.O., 5th June 1877, No. 1,887-R.
JUNE
Nos. 58 C—59 D.

No. 2088 Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 5th May 1877

Read the following:—

Board's R. No. 4579 No. 383

From The Acting Collector
Kurnool.

To The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith the reports of my sectional officers on the Relief operations for the month of March, together with my remarks recorded marginally thereon.

8 Enclosures to be printed here

I have &ca

Kurnool Collector's Office
24th April 1877

(Signed) R. Davidson
Acting Collector

The reports will be submitted for the information of Government.

30

It is to be regretted that they are forwarded at so late a date.

2. Mr Clogstoun's report shows that he has regulated wages not with reference to the actually quoted prices of either rice or cholam, but to a rate of 16 lbs per rupee which is somewhat between the ruling prices of the two grains, and is, he believes, nearly that at which grain is procurable in his three taluks. The Board are of opinion that a closer regulation is necessary; prices in Ramalakota rule higher than in the other two taluks, and should be allowed for.

3. He states that he has no reason to think the wages are insufficient to keep the coolies in good condition, but his remarks as to the difficulty of adjusting tasks seem to show that they are below the average of ordinary seasons. His intention to give the coolies opportunity of earning the higher scale of wages if they can is fully approved. The Collector's table, it is observed, gives what is to be considered full ordinary task. The argument advanced by Mr Clogstoun as to ordinary cost of work is quite sound, and gives the reason why the Board have objected to scales of task work founded upon ordinary values of work, and have directed that the quantities to be turned out should be laid down. Mr Clogstoun's remarks as

to comparison between Madras and Bombay coolies depend upon the assumption that prices are lower in the Bombay taluks than in Karnool which is not the case as regards those classed as severely distressed.

4. The Board are glad to notice from para 11 that the coolies have been concentrated on the trunk roads; that further new roads are not contemplated and that only sufficient labour has been left upon the roads already commenced to complete them before the famine is over. No relief camps have been established in the division which the Board regret. This village and relief house system

are

are open to great abuse and hence in fact broken down in Karnool. Mr Clogstoun seems to think a very elaborate organization essential to a camp, but recent orders have perhaps removed this impression. Strenuous efforts have been made to get coolies to go to the East Coast canal.

G.O. No 1510, dated 2d April 77.

5. Mr Gibson states that a better return is now being obtained in his division for the money spent. The special attention of Government is called to the remarks regarding the obstructiveness of Mr Vardon the Range officer which has prevented the massing of coolies on the Trunk road to Cuddapah.

The District Engineer however appears to have taken the matter up. Want of supervising agency prevents Mr Gibson from undertaking the repairs of small irrigation works, which cannot employ many coolies. Mr Scotland appears to be still employed in investigating two large projects for the restoration of ruined tanks. Unless decision is speedily come to as regards these works, there will not be time to execute them, and Mr Scotland's time and valuable services will be lost.

6. The scale of wages introduced by Mr Gibson is not the new scale at all, and is too high. It does not conform even to the price of rice which

which it purports to do. The Board have repeatedly noticed this subject and it is unsatisfactory that revision should be so long delayed; but some changes have now been effected, as appears from the last relief report. The scale under notice is said to be sufficient, and doubtless is so. Mr Gibson has no relief camps, and village relief has led to abuse in his division also. His report might have been fuller with advantage.

7. Mr Farmer's report does not disclose a satisfactory state of things in the Cumbum division. The strain which has been put upon him and the exposure which

he has undergone have apparently been greater than in his state of health he could bear, and it seems that the Collector has specially addressed Government upon the subject.

8. The emigration to the Canal has been mismanaged. Less than 4000 coolies have been despatched, and there have been large desertions owing probably as observed by the Collector to the high wages which Mr Farmer has persisted in paying. The Survey Subordinates who have failed to give satisfaction, and whose conduct is noticed in connection with this subject, should have been suspended and sent back at their own expense to head quarters.

It is stated that 20 per cent of the coolies are in an emaciated condition, which is certainly extraordinary considering the wages that have been in force. The Board cannot understand how it is that in the Cumbum division and in the Sub division of Cuddapah, where the highest wages have been paid, the coolies are said to be in the worst case. The result of the enquiry which the Collector has doubtless instituted into Mr Farmer's allegation is awaited. Dr Pedrozo the special Sanitary Officer to whom it would fall to report on the subject was at the date of Mr Farmer's report confined to his bed at Cumbum.

10. Mr Davidson's attention is called to the statement in para 6 of Mr Farmer's letter to the effect that coolies who are suffering from small pox and fever are retained in the gangs and their wages it is presumed charged to the works. This is wrong. They should come under gratuitous relief; though they should of course be prevented from crowding to relief houses. Camps, with hospitals, should be formed at once.

11. Mr Mayer has broken down, and if Mr Farmer has to go too, it will be obvious to Government that it will be necessary to strengthen Mr Davidson's hands by sending him a capable officer to manage this most difficult division.

(True Copy & Extract)

J. Lushn

Secretary

To
The Asst Secretary to Government P.W.D.
with 3 original Enclosures to be returned
and copies of 5 others.

Rev. 1877 Deft
No. 2318

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 5th May 1877
Recd 5/5/77
Ent. 8 ...
Repd 5th

G.O. 5 Revl /77. No. 1809

Famine Relief Operations in Kurnool District for April 1877 – submitting of fortly reports of Special Officers on – with Collector's remarks thereon.

Camp Golivee
27th March 1877

From
R. V. Mayer Esquire
Assistant Director Rev. Settt.
On Special Duty
Markapur Taluq

To
H. R. Farmer Esquire
Ag. Hd. Asstt. Collector
Cumbum

Sir

With reference to your letter No. $\frac{A}{795}$ dated 21st March 1877, I have the honor to state in explanation, that the people drafted from Dornal were removed in obedience to explicit instruction received from the Collector

2. While encamped at night on an open plain, they were caught in a shower of rain and the sudden chill and continued exposure (they

had been working 6 days at the place) acting on the Order and possibly enfeebled frames of the children referred to, would suffice to account for their deaths. There was cholera at the time in the Camp, but the cause of death as these poor people understood was exposure. The people were 20 miles from their homes and considering the small power possessed by children of re-sisting depressing influences, it is a matter of surprise that the deaths were not more numerous.

Acting on this belief I redrafted the people back to the neighbourhood of Dornal. I may just add that every care was taken of the poor Coolies. Batta was given them before they left, and immediately on their arrival at their destination work was pointed out and the usual pay given. Of course it is desirable to provide shelter for people moved to a distance from their homes, but I think hutting arrangements almost are impossible in this part of the country.

I have &ca.
(Signed) G. W. Addis
for R. V. Mayer
Astt. Director R. S.
on Spl. duty

(True copy)
(Signed) H. R. Farmer
Ag. Hd. Astt. Collector

(True copy)
(Signed) R. Davidson
Acting Collector

(True copy)

Enclosure in Board's
Proceedings to the Addl.
Secretary to Govt. R.D.
dated 5th May 1877
No.

Ex 15/23816

Arzee No. 94.

Venkatadripolliem
29th March 1877

To

Mayer Esquire
Relief Officer
Markapur

From

C. Guru Row
Ag. Tahsildar
Markapur

Sir,

I have reached this place having visited many villages of this Taluq in search of the Chenchus among the hills. Most of the people of the villages near the Dupad road obtain a livelihood by working on the Relief Work, but those that are living in villages at a distance from this road having no works near their villages where they can find employment and being unable to go to works 20 or 25 miles distant, are starving in their homes. They are on the one hand afraid of their houses being burnt during their absence, and on the other, of the difficulty of earning their livelihood if they stick to their homes. They fear Cholera outside their homes and are struggling for the very existence in their own villages. I have personally visited the following places in the course of my tours viz Domal, Yeguva Cherlopalli, Nallagunta, Gurramasala, Venkatadripolliem, Turagondapolliem and Kolukula. I cannot sufficiently describe the distress experienced by the people of these villages. They say that if works are opened at

a

a distance of 10 or 12 miles from their homes they can go and work there and obtain the means of subsistence and I think that the reasons given by them for not leaving their homes are admissible. I am not able to form any opinion as yet as to the condition of those residing at Pullalacheruvu, Chapalamadugu, Marrivemula and Iskatripuravaram situated at a distance 15 or 20 miles north of the above mentioned villages. I shall report on their condition shortly after personally visiting those villages. It would appear that it is proposed to open out in the northern part of this Taluq the marginally noted Irrigation works and I beg that sanction may be accorded for starting these works and giving employment to the poor people on them as soon as possible, as otherwise there will be loss of life for want of food. The condition of the people of Yeguva-Cherlapally* is too miserable to be depicted. Their dwellings have all been burnt. Each of them possesses 2 or 3 half-dead animals which being sent to a distance of 7 or 8 days' journey from their homes, miserably perish uncared for by the owners. The people busy themselves with the hope that these animals would live but there is no means of making them live. No relief works are opened in the neighbourhood of their villages. Under the existing arrangements the villagers will have to go to Kanikaveram a distance of 18 miles at least if they want work. Besides there is cholera prevalent there and the people are afraid of going thither. As you are the Relief Officer in charge of the Taluq I request you will be pleased to make proper arrangements for their subsistence.

1. Repairs to Gollavidepi Tank
2. Repairs to the sluice of Dupad Tank
3. Repairs to Narasayyapolliem Tank
4. Repairs to Marrivemula Tank.
5. Repairs to Venkatadripolliem Tank
6. Repairs to 5 wells in Mutukula
7. Repairs to 7 wells in Poollacheruvu
8. Repairs to 4 wells in Chapalamadugu and Ayyapureddipally

I have &ca
Signed/ C. Guru Row
Acting Tahsildar

Copy forwarded for the

---

* This was the village which was looted and burnt by the Hydrabad dacoits on the night of the 7th March.
(Sd) R. Davidson
Ag. Collector.

information of the Acting Head Assistant Collector.

(Signed) C. Guru Row
Ag. Tahsildar

(True copy)

(Signed) H. R Farmer
Ag. Hd. Asst. Collector

(True Translation).

(Signed) V. Jagannadha row
Special Deputy Collector
for Acting Collector.

(True copy)

J Eustis
Secretary

2d Encl.

1897B

Enclosure in Board's
Proceedings to the Addl.
Secretary to Govt. Rev.
dated 5th May 1877.
No.

Rev. 4/3316

1897 B

No. A/1010.

Kurnool Hd. Asst. Collr's. Offic
3rd April 1877
Cumbum

From
The Acting Hd. Asst. Collector
Kurnool

To
The Acting Collector
Kurnool

Your foot note No. 39 dated 9th January 1877 on Board's Proceedings No. 32[illegible]4 of 21st Decr. 1876.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the report, called for in the marginally noted orders, on the Famine Relief works in this Division for the month of March 1877

2. The report is divided into 8 heads as follows:

(1) Movements of Sectional Officer
(2) Number of persons relieved.
(3) Emigration
(4) Preservation of life & health.
(5) Concentration of labor
(6) Accounts
(7) Staff
(8) Prospects
(3)

Movements of Sectional Officer

(3) I spent most of the month in the Racherla and Donakonda Relief Ranges, but also visited Mr Mayer in the South of Markapur and Mr Thorburn at Cumbum. I personally attended to the carrying out of the various orders received, and to general matters of Relief administration.

Numbers in receipt of Relief

4. The subjoined statement taken from the weekly returns submitted to the Board, shows the numbers of persons employed and fed on the last day of each week in the month.

Taluq	Date	Number on works	No. fed
Cumbum	10th March	38301	870
	17th Do	43218	879
	24th Do	43844	1431
	31st Do	42933	2574
Markapur	9th March	11087	440
	16th Do	12137	468
	23rd Do	8551	588
	30th Do	9706	526

Almost every cooly in the Division who is now receiving state relief, has been placed on the lists under the orders of a European officer who satisfied himself on the spot that they were fit objects of State Relief. I have myself passed about half the coolies in the Division. We have now to occupy ourselves rather with finding out, and helping people who are really in need of help, than with trying to discover undeserving objects wrongly in receipt of relief.

Emigration

5. The number of persons registered by the Deputy Collector in charge of the Emigration Department, as having emigrated during the month from the division

3

division to Nellore District is shown in the subjoined statement.

Weekending	Families					Single Men	Total	Remarks
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total			
4th March	177	141	37	40	91	42	528	Coolies sent from Nandial and Kurnool not included
10th - Do -	197	210	50	74	67	73	671	
17th - Do -	148	170	37	51	46	28	480	
24th Do -	118	125	38	42	56	10	389	
31st Do	626	641	152	160	258	56	1893.	
Total	1266	1287	314	367	518	209	3961	

I wish I were in a position to state that all the 3961 coolies entered in the above list, actually reached the works at the East Coast Canal. You will see from my letter No. $\frac{A}{959}$ dated the 31st Ultimo, that there is reason to believe that large numbers of them returned to their villages after going a short distance. I hope if the suggestion contained in my letter quoted above^x meets with your approval, that with the inducements held out to Emigrants in Government Order No. 967 dated the 7th March 1877 (Revenue Department), we shall be able not only to increase the number of Coolies who emigrate in April, but also to state that all the coolies registered actually reached their destination. I propose to employ some of the Survey Subordinates in escorting gangs of Coolies to the East Coast Canal. It has been found impossible to get any work out of some of these Subordinates. They won't learn Telugu. I have thought it

better

x Namely
To increase the number of halting stations between Cumbum and the Canal. This has been done, but I informed Mr Farmer at the same time that I attributed the desertion more to the unauthorized by high rate of wages, which he was paying them to any other Cause.

9 1897 73/21

better to allow them to remain on the strength of the Famine Relief Establishment, than to send them back to Madras, which is just what they want. If idleness and indifference serve to secure their object, we shall get no work from any of them, but if they find that those who wont pick up a little Telugu, have to go backwards and forwards to Kottapattam, some of them may try to make themselves useful here.

6. As indicated already in para 4, it is the preservation* of life and health, which now demands our greatest vigilance and attention, some pains will have to be taken to make all subordinates thoroughly understand that Government are even more anxious to prevent avoidable loss of life than to save unnecessary expenditure. Hitherto we have not been obliged to increase the numbers on the works since the gangs were needed. I have, however, given authority to Road Superintendents, to take on needy persons to fill the places of those who emigrate, &c, absent themselves & when a new gang is formed: the matter has to be specially reported to me.

Gratuitous Relief continues to be administered at 5 Centres where works are going on in Cumbum taluq. In Markapur it would appear that since the Relief works were concentrated in accordance with your official Memo No W 2 of the 26th February, gratuitous relief operations have also been concentrated and that 3 or 4 of the Relief Houses have been shut. I have written to the Officer

It is to be hoped that the inability or unwillingness of these men to work will not exercise an injurious influence on the steady flow of emigrants to the East Coast Canal. The Survey & Settlement officers were indifferently distributed to Messrs Clogstoun, Gibson & Farmer as they arrived. One of Mr Gibson's lot showed symptoms of insubordination, with a view to being permitted to return.

* Preservation of life and health.

* As his own part of the country. Mr Gibson reported him & I instructed him to suspend the men should they evince similar insubordination again. Nothing of the kind has since occurred and it is a pity Mr Farmer did not adopt some such similar course.

* So far as my information goes the preservation of life has all along been the primary object of Government and its responsible officers & it seems rather late in the day for Mr Farmer to commence inculcating this doctrine into his subordinates.

Officer in charge of the Taluq, with a view to reopening relief houses, as it is clear from your memorandum ordering the works to be concentrated that you did not intend gratuitous relief* to be concentrated too.

The case of those who cannot get to the Relief Inclosures is provided for by Government Order No 907 dated the 3d of March 1877, & the Tahsildar have been directed to make an advance of Rs 10 to each Reddy who is to have accounts of Expenditure kept as ordered by Government.

If a successful working of this system can be secured, I have no doubt that the number of deaths attributed to cholera will rapidly decrease. At present there is no medical man whose services are available in connection with Famine Relief operations.

Surgeon

* certainly. Gratuitous relief has to be afforded wherever necessary

---

Surgeon Boroza and the Hospital Assistant attached to my office are both in Cumbum, and confined to their beds. It is doubtful whether they will be able to resume work here. The Hospital Assistant attached to the Civil Dispensary (where there are daily 2 or 3 deaths from Cholera) has more than he can do in attending to patients at Cumbum. Cholera sheds are being built and medicines distributed —

Small-pox & fever are very prevalent. Hitherto when persons had to leave the work on account of these diseases, they crowded to the Relief houses. Now they are to receive their wages and be kept separate. The great prevalence of infectious disease seems to have made officials apprehensive and nervous about themselves.

As regards the effect of the reduction of the subsistence allowance, I have the honor to report, as directed in the Marginally noted orders,× that there has not yet been sufficient time to judge. At present about 60 per cent of most gangs which I have seen, seem in pretty good case.

About 20 per cent of the persons in the gangs do not seem to have more flesh on their bones than I have seen on the bodies of persons who had died of starvation. I shall devote my best attention to observing the effects of the reduced scale of wages and attend carefully to your instructions regarding the preservation of life and health.

Captain Biscoe told me that, in the south of Cumbum Taluq the Coolies were as strong as

coolies

× 1 Para 4 of G. O. No 329. dated 31st Jany 1877. (Fam. Dept).
2. Your foot note No 623 dated the 28th March appended to G. O. No 757 of 1st March 1877 (Fam. Dept)

I am unable to determine at present whether this is a piece of sensational writing on Mr Farmer's part whether it is the result of that Exposure to the Sun, under which it appears he has completely succumbed as I had occasion to Telegraph to Govt yesterday or whether as a matter of fact it is accurate. If it is correct I am unable to discover whether the people did not of their own accord at Mr Farmer's instance emigrate to the Nellore Canal where liberal wages were procurable instead of either dying or becoming living skeletons. Moreover Mr Farmer has persistently paid his coolies until the other day, much higher than the authorized scale of wages which have been found sufficient elsewhere. There would therefore seem to have been gross mismanagement somewhere, either in respect to the proper amount of wages not having reached the coolies, to irregularity of payment or to both.

Coolies in India generally are since then the wages have been reduced.

Concentration of labor

7. By G. O. No 868 dated the 28th of February, it is ordered that the least important works should be discontinued as opportunity offers, and the labor employed on them concentrated on the long and important lines of road and on irrigation works. With reference to this order, I beg to report, as directed in your foot note No 484 dated the 10th March, that all the coolies in the Division, except about 1 thousand, have already been employed as directed by Government. Instructions have been issued to Captain Biscoe to draft 5000 coolies

more to Central works as soon as provision can be made, in accordance with the marginally noted orders for their shelter. I can, if you wish it, undertake to have every cooly in the Cumbum Taluq placed on main roads or irrigation works within 3 days from the receipt of your order to this effect; but the experience gained in Markapur leads me to hope that you will approve of my decision to allow the work of concentration in Cumbum Taluq to proceed as hitherto gradually. Shelter is necessary, as rain has commenced. From the enclosed

Copies

Para 4 of
No 520
5th Ja

Copies of Mr. Mayer's letter No 67 dated the 27th Ultimo and of the Markapur Tahsildar's Arzi No 94 dated the 29th Ultimo, it would appear that if the precaution of providing shelter is not observed, loss of life will probably result. Besides this, the administrative machinery at our disposal is quite unequal to the strain which any sudden change will occasion. Mr Mayer was out a great deal with reference to the work entailed by the concentration of coolies ordered in Markapur. He is now unfit for work on account of exposure, and I am anxious to avoid as far as possible the continuous exposure to the sun, which results from endeavouring to do too much in a day. It will be found difficult, I fear, to secure an officer of Mr Mayer's experience to take his place. He has been granted a sick certificate for 3 months. I hope however that long before the next monthly report issues, all coolies in

All concentration details were as a matter of course left for the determination of responsible officers. My other Sectional officers manage those matters in a masterly matter & without either complaining of the difficulty or requiring to be formally told that they are not to sacrifice life while transferring gangs from one work to another. While in the Cumbum Division I was at great pains to explain that the coolies were to have fair warning of the intended change that they were to be supplied with batta while moving from one work to the other that complete arrangements were to be made at the concentration work for their reception & employment before they were moved. It is when such orders are disregarded or imperfectly carried out that difficulty & danger in Cumbum Talug will have been concentrated gradually on important roads and irrigation works. As irrigation works, are detached, there will be a difficulty in securing effectual supervision, but I shall endeavour to do what can be done towards remedying and providing against the evils which may be expected to arise on account of insufficient supervision. To give effect to the wishes of Government and fix responsibility on particular subordinates, I have, in ~~circulation~~ consultation with the Range officers, given a separate Circle of villages to each of the 5 Overseers available for duty in Cumbum Talug. These Overseers are to visit all works in progress in the Circle once a week at least. They are to be furnished with a list of irrigation works in their Circle or Range, and to propose repairs or improvements. Much of their time will have to be devoted to teaching Maistries.

The.

appear to arise.
Mr Mager wou
appear to have d
required the Ru
for the guidance
of Relief officer

14
189713/26

Accounts

8. The Special Deputy Collector is, as you are aware, in charge of the Account Department. The work requires continual care and patience. I have written to the Deputy Collector impressing upon him the importance of personally instructing the Road Superintendents in the method of keeping the accounts prescribed in the marginally noted orders.x He is now attending to this suggestion. If 3 suitable accountants to fill the posts sanctioned in the marginally noted orders x can be obtained I shall feel less apprehensive as to the prospect of the accounts being respectably kept. Several cases of fraud have come before me and I have only been able to convict in one case. This

Conviction

x G.O. No 985 dated 8th March 1877

x Your foot note No $\frac{N}{18}$ dated 19th Feby & No 607 dated the 23d March 1877

The Dy accountant Genl Mr Larpent is at present at Kurnool auditing the Huzur accounts & every effort is being & will continue to be made to get the [illegible] accounts

Conviction was partly owing to the accounts having been fairly kept.

9 As Mr Mayer had to leave Markapore suddenly, the only arrangement, I could make, was to put Mr Thorburn in his place - you will probably agree with me in thinking that the position is too arduous for an officer of Mr Thorburn's standing.

The Tahsildar is new and engaged in Jamabundy work. Mr Mayer fears that Supervisor Venkapee will be knocked up with overwork. There is not another Subordinate who is both efficient and experienced. Mr Thorburn has no office Establishment.

Mr Macfarlane & Mr Goodsir who

into form with the least possib delay.

Staff

As Mr Farmer h himself succumb to the effect of the sun & requires rest, Application has bee made to Govt for assistance which is urgently neede in the Cumbum Division

Mr Thorburn wi the staff at his disposal ought to be able to undertak the general supervis of 1000 Concentrated Coolies (Vide para supra for number

15

who are both engaged in Markapu Talug, are 12 or 15 years Mr Thorburn's seniors Mr Addis & Mr Macfarlane seem anxious to please & willing to work. Mr Goodsir speaks of resigning his post. From what Mr Mayer has reported and from what I have seen of Mr Goodsir, I shall recommend in a separate letter that his resignation be accepte Mr Hicken is virtually Engineer of the section and, as there are only two talugs, perhaps you and the District Engineer may allow Mr Hicken to take general charge of the professional part of the work in the Division. Mr Addis and Mr Macfarlane will be useful

Mr Farmer has done so apparently more on representation made by Mr Mayer than from personal knowledge. Considering the representation made by Mr Farmer of the destitute state of his Division and the difficulty that has been experienced in sending him aid, he ought not to dispense lightly with professional aid.

From what I have seen of Mr Hicken and his work, I would hesitate to place him in general charge of the Cumbum Division. His pay is Rs 150 per mensem and his rank that of Supervisor 2d grade useful on executive work. To prepare plans and estimates an office Establishment[x], instruments, paper &c are necessary. No one but Mr Hicken has these. Supervisor Venkajee and Sherista Gumasta Venkiah, both of the Revenue Settlement, are working well in the field. I have dismissed a sub overseer for drunkenness which ended in delirium tremens, and sent another subordinate to prison for fraud. I hope by the offer of higher pay to be able to get a few useful subordinates to fill the places of some of the most inefficient of those who are now employed.

one

though designate
Range Officer. M
Goodsir draws
& allowances a
he is designate
assistant Engin

[x] Mr Goodsir
has indented f
them.

one death of a subordinate has been reported in March & absence from sickness is frequent

Prospects

10 I think we have no longer any cause to be apprehensive as to the supply of grain. Our best endeavours have, however, hitherto failed to induce the grain merchants to come forward and offer grain for sale in sufficient quantities in the South of Cumbum Taluq (Chintalapally and Kristnammachettipally Relief Ranges). The works already sanctioned will provide employment for the coolies of the Division for 4 or 5 months, and, if Mr Hicken[x], the Range Officer is appointed as Engineer of the Section, I have no doubt plans

[x] Mr Hicken may perfectly well be required to do this work without necessarily being in charge of the Division

and estimates for irrigation repairs will be submitted, in time, to prevent any lack of useful work being ready. We shall thus, I hope, be able to provide useful work for the coolies until the cultivation season has far advanced, and they can obtain grain on credit upon the security of standing crops. When grain is not purchaseable, we shall be able to continue grain payments. Peculation, idleness and bad work must be expected among the subordinates available. Additional help lately sent and the promise of more make it likely that we shall be able considerably to diminish opportunities for fraud and to establish a system of check which will generally ensure punishment for idleness.

There must be no uncertainty on this point & immediate steps should be taken to ensure it

So long as they understand this is expected of them they are not likely to disappoint Mr Farmer

I have &c

Sd/ H. R. Farmer
Ag Hd Asstt Collector

(True copy)

Sd/ R. Davidson
Acting Collector

(True copy)

H Erskine
Secretary

18

Kurnool Spl. Asst. Coll's Office
Camp Atmakur
9th April 1877.

No. 416.

S. Rev

8971
30

From
The Spl. Assistant Collector
in charge of Section No. 2.

To
The Acting Collector of
Kurnool

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the usual monthly report upon Relief Operations in the Talugs of this Section.

The same works have been in progress during the past as during the preceding month, and in addition one or two small tank repairs have been commenced in the Sirwell Talug. Arrangements are also complete

233/6

complete for putting in hand the repairs of several small tanks in the Taluq of Nandicotkur and these are about to be commenced. The difficulty in getting these petty irrigation works repaired consists in this that they are all so small that only a very limited number of coolies can be employed upon them and this implies a necessary weakening of our supervising staff. The repair of the Trunk Road through Nundial has begun and work is also going on the main Road from Kurnool through Atmakur to the Nallamalais. Had it not been for the difficulties raised by the Range officer, a good deal of work would already have been done on the Cuddapah Trunk Road but although I gave Mr Vardon an overseer he would not undertake the work without receiving an enormous supply of tools and as I could not meet the demand I withdrew the Overseer who is now employed elsewhere.

The concentration of labor on the main lines of communication is of great importance and is a move in the right direction which has not been made a day too soon.

Mr Range Officer Vardon's bearing towards the Revenue officers in connection with Relief operations has been unsatisfactory for some time past, it is now obstructive, I understood that the District Engineer has written to him forcibly on the subject.

2. Mr Scotland, the Special Assistant Engineer is at present investigating two projects on a large scale which if decided upon will afford employment for large numbers. One of these works is the restoration of

I was on my way to inspect these two important irrigation works in the Sirwell Taluq and was within a short distance of Nallalingamdinne when I had suddenly to cut of an old tank at Tallalingamdinne and the other of the old Chagalmarri Tank, both in Sirwell Taluq.

3. The general sum of my observations during the past month in the matter of work is that although there is still room for great improvement, the out-turn is considerably greater than it has yet been. The people do not of course work with energy, but they have got rid of the idea that they are to be paid for doing nothing and understand, whether they succeed in getting their full wage or not, that they are not entitled to it except for work done.

to cut my tour short and return to Head Quarters owing to my special Assistant Mr Bird having had to proceed on sick certificate. Before leaving I instructed Deputy Collector Ramachendra Rau personally to report on the area that would be brought under cultivation and the Revenue [illegible]

This is satisfactory.

4. During the month under report the new scale of wages has been introduced. I have taken second sort rice as the standard for commutation on the ground that Cholum is not everywhere to be had, although generally procurable in the Sontas and at the Kusbas. In this way the rates of wages have been $\overset{a\ p}{1-8}$, $\overset{a\ p}{1-5}$ and 10 pies for men, women and children respectively. In addition to these wages, 3 pies are given to each child under 7 years of age of parents employed upon the works. I see no reason at present to suppose that the present allowance is insufficient

But as I have already pointed out it is not lower ~~that~~ than we have been paying for the last three months. Prices are now falling slightly in Sirwell and Nandial and the wages for the current fortnight are somewhat lower.

5. In addition to the Langerkhanas at large Central Villages, and the Relief Hospitals at Nandial a general system of Village relief has been introduced.

I have &ca
(Signed) C. Gibson
Spl. Apptt. Collector
Section 2.

(True copy)
(Signed) R Davidson
Acting Collector

(True copy)

Secretary

33

1897/3

Enclosure in Board's Proceedings to the Sub Secretary to Govt R.D. dated 5th May 1877

No.

Ex 3/7331b

1897/3

No. 143

Special Asst. Collr. Office
Camp Veldurty
16th April 1877.

From

The Special Asst. Collector
Kurnool

To

The Acting Collector
Kurnool.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a brief report on the conduct of the Famine Relief operations in my Section of the District during the month of March.

2 Numbers on the Works. The numbers on Relief works in each Taluk of the Section on the 24th February, and on each succeeding Saturday up to Saturday 31st March are shown below.

Taluks	Total numbers on Relief works						Increase or decrease in Column 7 as compared with Col. 2
	February 24th	March 3rd	March 10th	March 17th	March 24	March 31st	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ramalkota	47941	46543	45309	43897	39064	38945	− 8996
Pattikonda	21854	20802	21106	19999	20892	23340	+ 1486
Koilkuntla	29353	31839	33952	32196	31800	30974	+ 1694
Total	99148	99184	100367	96092	91756	93259	− 5889

The decrease in the numbers employed on Relief works in the Section on the last Saturday in March as compared with the last Saturday in February is 5889. In the Ramalkota Taluk the decrease in numbers has continued steadily every week, the total decrease in the numbers employed during the month amounting to 8996. The actual decrease is not, however, so great, for between two and three thousand were transferred to the Public Works Department and should have been included in the accounts from which they were omitted by mistake. The numbers in the Pattikonda Taluk show a slight increase, but are still low if the area and the population (173,434) of the

the Taluk be considered.

3. In Koilkuntla there is an increase, but so slight as not to call for much notice. Taking the population of the Section, and of half the Banaganapally Zamindary as 441077, the percentage of the population actually on Relief works on March 31st will amount to 21·1 per cent. As stated in my last monthly report I am satisfied that no important reduction in numbers can now be looked for, and I hardly think it possible that we shall get to the end of May without a very large increase in the numbers for whom employment must be found. I am prepared for either event. I can find useful work

for all coolies whom I am likely to have to employ, and with my present establishment, I shall be able without difficulty to discriminate between the really needy, and the well-to-do should any sudden rush occur to the works.

From past experience I have every confidence in the judicious arrangements which Mr Clogstoun has made.

4. Prices. The prices on the last day of each week in the month at the Taluk Cusbahs, are shown in the annexed statement.

Items	Taluks	For the weeks ending February 24th	March 3rd	March 10th	March 17th	March 24th	March 31st
Rice 2nd sort	Ramalkota	6.06	6.77	8.19	6.23	6.23	6.77
	Pattikonda	7.52	7.61	7.87	7.35	7.35	7.35
	Koilkuntla	6.60	7.43	7.43	8.25	8.25	7.42
Cholum	Ramalkota	7.84	8.55	8.90	8.90	7.30	8.55
	Pattikonda	9.67	9.71	10.24	9.45	9.45	9.45
	Koilkuntla	7.84	8.25	7.84	9.07	8.80	9.07

The price of 2nd sort rice, it will be seen, was below 16 lbs per rupee

in

S. Prew

in all the Taluks of the Section on the last Saturday in the month. In Ramalkota every quotation save one, is below 16 lbs per rupee. In Pattikonda it is the same. In Koilkuntla three out of the five quotations show prices below 16 lbs per rupee. As regards cholum the month closed with prices in all the Taluks, considerably over 16 lbs per rupee, but considerable fluctuations in price were apparent during the month in Ramalkota and Koilkuntla, prices in the former Taluk having been in one week as high as 7.30 Imperial seers per rupee, and in the latter Taluq as high as 7.84 seers per rupee. With these fluctuations in the Head Quarter towns of each

Taluk, the fluctuations in the villages cannot with safety be assumed to be less, and it is absolutely necessary that in fixing wages some margin should be allowed on this account. I am quite satisfied that at present prices the relief cooly gets very little, if any thing, more than 1 pound of grain for an anna at the markets to which he is compelled to resort (the great majority of the coolies are employed purposely at a distance from the Cusbahs) and I am not satisfied that he would be able to get 1 lb of grain for less than one anna. Until this latter is assured

With reference to this subject Govt. have already sanctioned payment of an extra pie per adult employed on Relief works distant more than five miles from Casba stations.

assured it is not possible to make any reduction in the wages.

5. Wages. Wages have been paid throughout the month according to the lower standard prescribed by Government in their order of the 31st January No 329.

6. Condition of the Coolies. I saw during the month a large proportion of the coolies employed in the Ramalkota and Pattikonda Taluks, and I saw no reason to suppose that the wages given were insufficient to keep them in fair condition. They did not strike me as failing in strength, and the general health seemed fairly good. Cholera, which made terrible havoc in the Pattikonda Taluk in December and January had almost entirely ceased on the works in that Taluq.

This accords with the opinion expressed by Mr. Gibson with regard to relief Coolies in the 2 adjoining Taluqs, & with my own experience.

7. I had no opportunity of visiting Koilkuntla in the month, but I have no reason to suppose that the coolies there employed were in a condition inferior to those employed in the other Talugs of the Section.

8. While, as I have said above, I do not consider that the effect on the coolies of the reduced money wage has up to date justified any demand for an increase of pay. I cannot forget that the two hottest months of the year are before us, and I shall be glad if I can find it possible to give them a slight addition of pay, by placing them on the higher scale of wages and exacting a larger task

Piece

task. It does not seem advisable or just to apply for a higher rate of wages for the coolies, for doing comparatively little, in cases where I am in a position to grant them this higher rate of wages, for doing a task which they are perfectly well able to do. I hope in the course of the month to have placed the majority of the coolies in this Section on the higher scale of pay. I shall have a thorough organization for measuring the work done, and it will rest with the coolies themselves to determine whether it is worth their while to take a little Extra
it should trouble to earn a little extra pay.
The higher rates of pay will appear in the accounts for these coolies; but rates in excess of those now paid

paid will only be disbursed, actually, when the work performed materially exceeds the existing task. If less work continues to be done than the present task, a fine will be imposed sufficient to reduce the payment to the amount which would at present be paid.

9. Much difficulty is at present experienced in fixing a suitable task which shall entitle the coolies to the higher rates of pay. It must be fixed with leniency, and due allowance must be made for the low rates of wages which to a great extent must incapacitate the coolies for hardwork; and for the want of a sufficient supply of tools &ca: There is no Public Works task, so to speak, their rates

are

With reference to these remarks I enclose printed Copy of the Task work table. I drew up in consultation with the District Engineer as required in Clause I para 3 Board's Pro. dated 21st February 1877. & circulated for the guidance of all Relief Officers in the District. I also enclose Copy of instructions which I circulated to all relief officers on receipt of Pro= of Board & Govt. dated 5 & 21st February last respectively.

are not based upon what a man can do for a certain sum, but upon what a man will do. There are serious difficulties in the way of deducing the task from the money rates paid for similar work in ordinary years, as also in the way of determining the value of work now done from its value in ordinary years. These difficulties will be the more felt if attempts are made to compare the value of work in Bombay with that done in this Presidency. An example will suffice. In a Taluk in Bombay where prices are 16 seers per rupee, a man is paid one anna plus the value of a pound of grain, or a total sum of 1 anna 6 pies for

32lbs

for digging a Cubic yard of earth. That is to say he is paid the equivalent of 3 pounds of grain per Cubic yard. Now the value of 3 pounds of grain in Kurnool is 3 annas, so that a Cubic yard in Bombay though if valued in money it only costs 1 anna 6 pie, yet if valued in grain, and grain is the only fair standard of Comparison, it costs, at Kurnool rates 3 annas. I notice this fact because the tendency at present is to compare the work in the two Presidencies, according to their money values, and thus to make out that the Bombay work costs only about

about

I beg to invite the Board's special attention to the important subject touched upon by Mr Clogstoun in paras 9 & 10 of his report. It seems to me they carry great weight with them.

1892-13 / 437

S Rice

about three fourths of the Madras work, though in reality it costs the state in grain fifty per cent more.

10. The matter may be looked at in another light also. It is unfair to assume that the Kurnool Cooly who buys his grain at an anna per pound, can do as much for 2 annas as the Bombay Cooly who with a wage of 1 1/2 anna can buy 3 lbs of grain per day. The Bombay Cooly who is cheaply fattened upon an anna and a half may not unreasonably be presumed to have strength to do double the work which his Madras brother can turn out, who for his full wages can get only 2 pounds of food. A Bombay Cooly on one and a half

half anna a day might fairly be asked to do a full D.P.W. task, while it might not be right to demand more than 3/4 ths of a task from the Madras Cooly on 2 annas. That is to say, it is quite within reason that for an Expenditure in money of 33 per cent more than in Bombay (2 Annas against 1 Anna 6 pies) we should only fairly be called on to do three fourths of the work done by Bombay.

11. Nature and Progress of Relief Works

I have treated so fully on this subject in my letter No. $\frac{94}{68}$ of the 30th Ultimo, that I need not now recur to it. At the date I am writing, upwards of 13,000 —

Coolies

Coolies have been removed to the main roads where they are engaged in stacking broken metal and gravel. Sufficient numbers still remain on the new roads to ensure their completion before the famine is over.

12. *Gratuitous Relief*. Every village officer in the Section has been supplied with funds for the support of the sick and needy in the villages, and all the large relief houses are still kept up. If the numbers fed in the village get beyond control, it may be found advantageous to concentrate the poor in Central Relief houses, but without medical aid I shrink from establishing

these large camps. I have not found any urgent necessity for them up to date.

13. Government Reserve of Rice.

I have had no occasion to indent on any of the reserves during the past month. Throughout the Section the bazaars are now well supplied.

14. At the close of the past month I had selected in the Ramalkota Taluq, about 4600 able-bodied coolies for despatch from our Relief works to Nellore. All these men have now been struck off the rolls, but only about 500 or 600 have up to date left the Taluq. Where all the others have gone to, I cannot yet state, but I fancy that

18973/42 24

S. Price

that they will in a short time make up their minds to start. A few hundred have gone from Koilkuntla, and I trust to be able to get a few more off from these when I reach the Taluk.

I have &ca.

(Sd.) H. Clogstoun
Special Asst. Collector

(True Copy)

(Sd.) R. Davidson.
Ag. Collector

(True Copy)

Secretary.

Ex. 2
3316

G.O. 5 June /77 Mr 1897 B

1897B

No. 1897 B

d/5 June 97

G.O

The Govt. await the submission of the plans & estimates for the 2 Irrigation works on which Mr. Sobbland is engaged.

The G.O. also expresses hope that the Collr. has given immediate attention to the subject of the report on receipt in March last.

2. They observe that the Asst. Colr's report of the Markapur & Mr. Nagar contains a very bad account of the condition of the people, presumably Chenchus, who live in villages at a considerable distance from the Dupad road — particularly of those in Kolilingu & the village which was looted & burnt by the dacoits from the Hyderabad country early in March. ~~and the most immediate~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~

+ Yerrachelapalli

attention was given to the subject

Ask whether Mr. Vaiden ... obstructiveness ... that the P.W. officer should endeavour to ... [illegible]

3. With regard to the
obstructiveness of Mr
Vardon which is
complained of by
Mr Gibson I think it will
be pointed out to the Refor-
-mer officer by the D.P.W.
that it is the duty of
officers in his position
to lend a hand to ~~[illegible]~~
find means to assist
rather than to obstruct
& delay the progress &
arrangement of works

5/6/77

Mrd Copy to the Board of Rev on 9 June
35 B C of 22 June 77
4 to the P W Dept No
5 the Financial Dept

1897-5
15

4:5

Cu

~~D.15~~

2 Hy

~~6-6-77~~

C14-5-77 R4-6-77